GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3361
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2003
VACANT POSTS
VIRENDRA KUMAR

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a substantial shortage of officers in the Armed Forces;

(b) if so, whether several posts of officers in the three services of Defence have not been filled up since long;

(c) if so, the vacancy positions of Army, Air Force and Navy separately; and

(d) the steps taken to fill up those vacancies? A N S W E R

Answer

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (d): A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3361 13.3.2003

There has been some shortage of officers in the Armed Forces. The present shortage of officers in the Army, Air Force and Navy is given below:-

Army	Air Force	Navy
12554	515	1098

Several steps have been taken by the three Services to fill the vacant posts. The Image Projection Campaign by the Army has been launched in 1997 and currently Phase-III of the Campaign is under way.In addition, seminars, lectures and presentations are also organised by the Recruiting Offices at schools and colleges in order to motivate the youth to join the Army and the training capacity of the Army has been increased to facilitate increased intake.

Sustained publicity efforts are being undertaken by the Air Force to attract talented and qualified youth into the officers` cadre. Almost 3000 Schools and Colleges are on the mailing list for sending the publicity material. Campus interviews are undertaken by qualified assessors from Selection Boards so as to interact directly with potential candidates and answer their queries about the service. Schools and Colleges are visited regularly for motivational talks.

Extensive publicity and recruitment drives are being carried out by the Navy. Motivation drives are conducted in various colleges/institutions in order to widen the scope of target population.

In addition the valiant image of the Armed Forces is consistently projected through the electronic and the print media. The Directorate of Public Relations of Ministry of Defence, regularly interacts with the media persons while giving Defence related information and endeavours to ensure positive publicity of the same. Regular coverage of defence related events in the print and electronic media goes a long way in creating awareness among the masses and motivating the youth to join the armed forces. Websites are also operative on the Internet providing career information on the three Services.